

SOUTH KOREAN "PLANS" FOR UNILATERAL ACTION

I. Three unconfirmed reports (By FEC from unidentified sources) suggest Rhee is planning some sort of unilateral military action against North Korea, perhaps opening "second front" should Chicom attack Formosa. 25X1X6

A. [REDACTED] Rhee ordered his Defense minister to prepare by 15 March a statement of South Korea's military capabilities. 25X1X6

B. [REDACTED] on 14 February, Rhee told his Defense and Home ministers that he expected North Korean attack in Oct 55, that South Korea must "strike first," and that ministers should be ready to strike ⁱⁿ early April.

C. [REDACTED]

Rhee told an 18 February cabinet meeting that everyone should be prepared for war by 1 March and that he would advance north if Formosa were attacked.

II. If genuine, these reports are part of Rhee's psychological warfare.

- A. Rhee believes Korean unification--his major goal--can only be achieved in course of full-scale US war in Asia.
- B. He has used Formosa crisis to keep alive prospects of renewed Korean fighting.
- C. Reports like these could be purposefully circulated to smoke out ^{US} views on South Korea's role in event of active warfare between US and ChiComs.

III Any agreement between ROK and ChiNats has been specifically denied by ROK Army Chief of Staff (Chong Il-kwon) who recently visited Taipei.

- A. Although stating Rhee was "pleased" by press reports that Chong had pledged automatic renewal war in Korea in event of attack on Formosa, Chief of Staff denied making statement.
- B. Both ROK and ChiNats aware of their military dependence on US: neither has shown much enthusaism for military pact that failed include US.
- C. Seems likely, therefore, that any ROK promise to ChiNats is limited to moral support, and that ROK military action remains contingent upon US approval and support.